

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record For Butte Falls/Prospect Highway Blowdown Salvage OR115-08-014

Location of Proposed Action: Project is located in Township 35 South, Range 2 East, SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 1, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

Description of Proposed Action

A recent storm having hurricane force winds with catastrophic disturbances has blown down and/or loosened trees approximately 40 trees on BLM-administered lands. The proposal is to harvest blown down and hazard trees within the 1.5 acres adjacent to the Butte Falls/Prospect Highway. The removal of the trees will be from the existing paved road and adjacent industrial forest lands.

Plan Conformance Review

The Bureau of Land Management did not scope this proposal and the public was not involved in its development. This proposal is consistent with policy directed by the following:

- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994)
- *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (PRMP/EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995)
- *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (ROD, 2007)
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment* (1998) and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS, 1985)

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act of 1990 (as amended), and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

This proposal is consistent with management direction in the Medford District Resource Management Plan that directs the BLM to "Provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by events such as wildfire, windstorms, insects, or disease, consistent with management objectives for other resources." (USDI 1995, p. 72).

Project Design Features

1. Motorized vehicles will not operate on BLM managed lands.
2. Logs will be winched to the adjacent landowner's property.
3. Two snags per acre will be left on site if available and are not a hazard to the operation or the highway.
4. Large coarse woody debris of 120 lineal feet (16" X 16") per acre will be left on-site.
5. Road and ditch line will be cleaned of slash and debris.
6. Lop and scatter slash.

Categorical Exclusion Determination

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in United States Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 516 DM 11.9 C(2). This section allows for "Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured or which constitute a safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance to existing roads."

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the "extraordinary circumstances," included in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, must be reviewed for applicability. After review, the BLM determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would cause the proposed action to have a significant environmental effect. The action will not require additional analysis.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact David Orban, Project Leader, at (541)944-0112.

Decision

It is my decision to harvest blown down and hazard trees within the 1.5 acres adjacent to the Butte Falls/Prospect Highway. The removal of the trees will be from the existing paved road and adjacent industrial forest lands.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified above, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.



Christopher J. McAlear
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

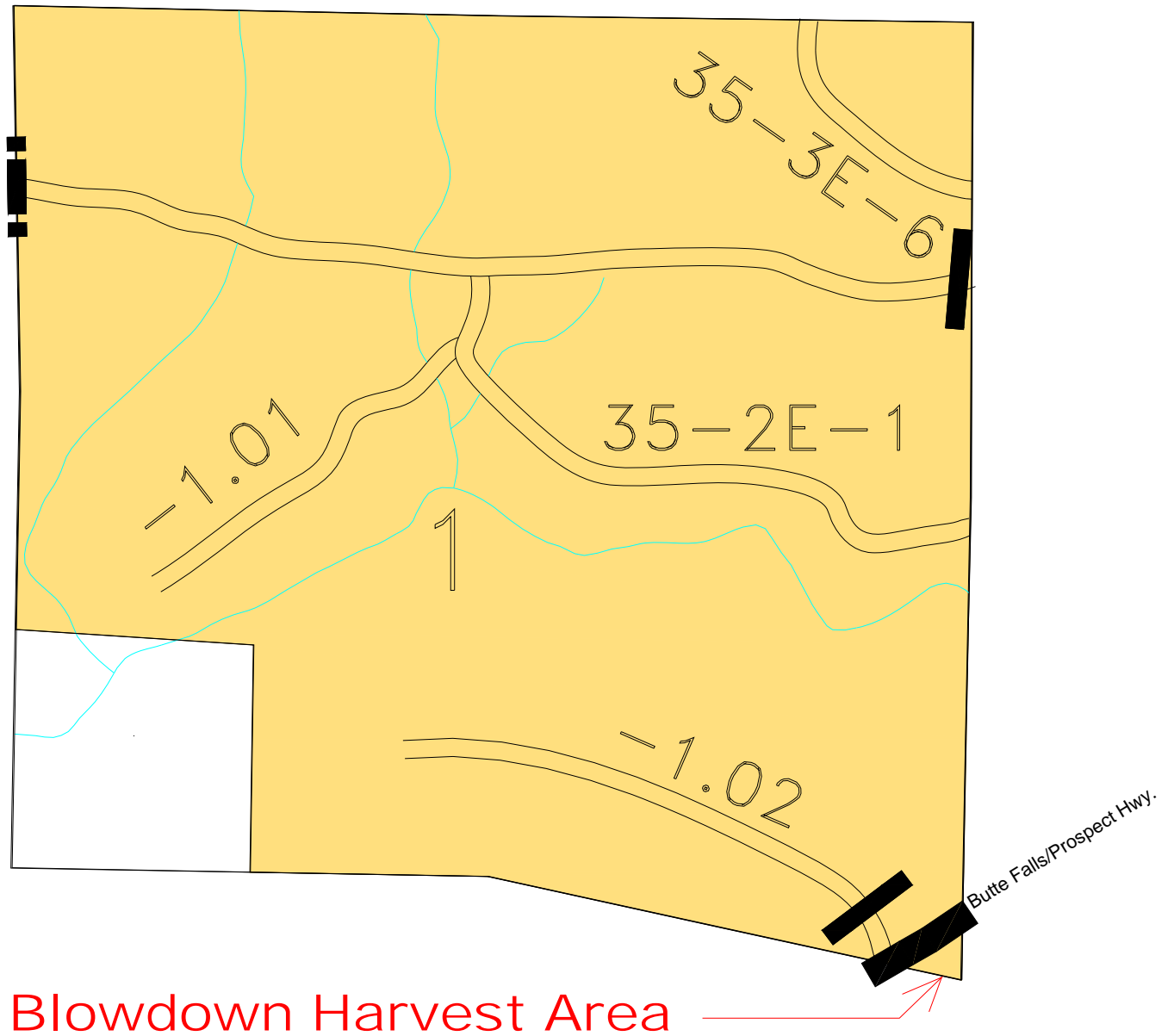
March 6, 2008

Date

Administrative Remedy

Notice of forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion, will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.

T.35S.,R.2E.,Sec.1sese



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review**Proposed Action:**

To implement the removal and utilization of the blow down and hazard trees, as described in the Proposed Action.

Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3.A(3) provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the proposed action based on actions which may:

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial QU Remarks:

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JEM Remarks:

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial QU Remarks:

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial QU Remarks:

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial QU Remarks:

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial SLS Remarks:

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JEM Remarks:

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Plants ☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial mw

Remarks: vascular plants dormant, no
Special Status nonvascular present

Animals ☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial LH

Remarks:

Fish ☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial LZ

Remarks: All equipment would stay on Rds.

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial QU Remarks:

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JW Remarks:

11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JW Remarks:

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JW Remarks:

Reviewers:

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	2/26/08	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	2/21/08	mw
Linda Hale	Wildlife Biologist	2/25/08	LH
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	2/25/08	SL
Shawn Simpson	Hydrology	2/25/08	SLS
Ken Van Etten	Soils	2/27/08	SLS
Leanne Mruzik	Fire/Fuels Specialist	2/26/08	JM
John McNeel	Cultural Resources	2/26/08	JM
Randy Bryan	Engineering	2-22-08	RRB
Trish Lindaman	Visual Resources/Recreation	2-25-08	PL